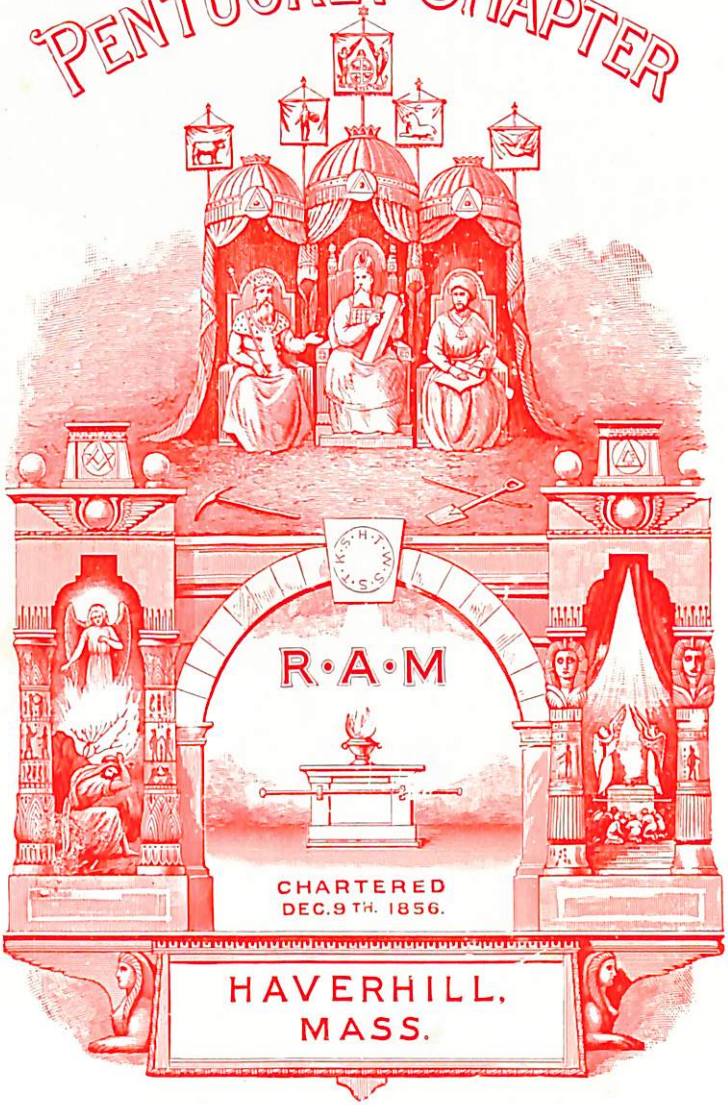
100th Anniversary

PENTUCKET CHAPTER



OFFICERS OF PENTUCKET CHAPTER

1956 — 1957

Myron O. Wood	High Priest
Onesime J. Lafrance	King
Christopher Cottis	Scribe
Raymond H. Tefft	Treasurer
Frank P. Kelly	Secretary
Rev. Frederic A. Parker	Chaplain
Frank B. Kimball, Jr.	Captain of the Host
Richard F. Blake	Principal Sojourner
Gregory W. Stark	Royal Arch Captain
Mark Mavrofrides	Master of the 3rd Veil
Harold S. Roberts	Master of the 2nd Veil
Albert V. Seavey	Master of the 1st Veil
William M. Wood	Senior Steward
Ed M. Putnam, 2nd	Junior Steward
Forrest D. Bixby	Tyler
Fred Windle, Jr.	Organist

TRUSTEES OF MASONIC TEMPLE

Frank D. Babcock, 1957 Ex. Max V. Bressler, 1958

TRUSTEES OF THE PERMANENT FUND

Rt. Ex. Richard H. Kershaw, 1959 Herbert S. Brasseur, 1958

Ex. Earl C. Appleby, 1957

PAST HIGH PRIESTS

*George W. George 1858-59-60-61
*James E. Gale 1862-63
*Daniel Fitts 1864-65
*David B. Tenney 1866-67-68-69-70
*Plumer W. Sanborn 1871-72
*Charles S. Chase 1873-74-75
*Charles T. Chase 1876-77-78-82
*Orin D. Bartlett 1879
*Charles M. Heath 1880-81
*Charles W. Nutter 1883-84-85
*Edward A. Fitts 1886-87
*Edward B. George 1888-89
*Daniel E. Durgin 1890-91
*Charles P. Sumner 1892-93-94
*Joseph A. Dalrymple 1895-96
*Harry J. Cole 1897-98
*Rt. Ex. F. D. McGregor 1899-1900
Rt. Ex. Daniel C. Hunt 1901-02
*Frank S. Hamlin 1903-04
*John Z. Ray 1905-06
Charles A. Bodwell 1907-08
°C. Archie Horne 1909-10
*W. Eugene Ellis 1911
*A Shirley Ladd 1912-13
*George E. Hale 1914-15
James E. Hall 1916-17
*Urban W. Leavitt 1918-19
*Rt. Ex. Forrest V. Smith 1920-21
*Ira C. Titcomb 1922
Theodore Goodrich 1923
°W. Albert Jermyn 1924
*Carl H. Webster 1925
*Russell G. Kimball 1926
*Fred H. Crockett 1927
*Sumner E. Towle 1928
Rt. Ex. Otto R. Snow 1929
J. Beck Pierce 1930
Ray H. Palmer 1931
Francis A. Judkins 1932
Howard O. Drake 1933
Robert B. Kimball 1934
*William F. Wallace 1935
*Clifton L. Bartlett 1936
Horace W. Brown 1937
*Harold H. Shedd 1938
Albert W. Hunkins 1939
John H. Fuller 1940
Carroll E. Haseltine 1941
Charles D. Jones 1942
Archibald M. Estabrook 1943
Rt. Ex. Richard H. Kershaw 1944
*J. Franklin Batchelder 1945
*Arthur B. Walker 1946
Benn R. Webster 1947
*Leonard A. Tilton 1948
Arnold D. Philbrick 1949
Earl C. Appleby 1950
Earle N. Johnson 1951
*Fred E. Harris 1952
Max V. Bressler 1953
H. Elwin Spencer 1954
Fred M. Wood 1955
Robert D. Forsyth, Jr. 1956

*Deceased °Demitted

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

General Chairman
Raymond H. Tefft

Honorary Chairmen
Myron O. Wood
Robert D. Forsyth, Jr.

Banquet Committee
Benjamin H. White
Louis Johnson
Myron O. Wood

Ticket Committee
Christopher Cottis

Music Committee
Fred M. Wood
Harold Roberts
Gregory Stark

History Committee
Fred M. Wood
John O. Widder
Sotiris Katsaros

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Continued

Finance Committee

Richard H. Kershaw
Earl C. Appleby
Carroll E. Haseltine
Mark Mavrofrides
Raymond H. Tefft

Invitation Committee

Earl C. Appleby
Robert D. Forsyth, Jr.
Myron O. Wood
Richard H. Kershaw

Publicity Committee

Frank P. Kelly
Frank B. Kimball, Jr.
Raymond H. Tefft

Decorating Committee

Onesime J. Lafrance
Richard Blake
Harold Roberts
Mark Mavrofrides
Gregory Stark
Edward Mitchell
Clifford Gordon

Utility Committee

Mark Mavrofrides
O. J. Lafrance
F. B. Kimball, Jr.
Gregory Stark
Richard Blake
Harold Roberts
E. W. Smith
Harold Spencer

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 2, 1956

DIVINE SERVICES AT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HAVERHILL, MASS.

Divine Service, conducted by

REV. FREDERIC A. PARKER

Chaplain of Pentucket Chapter

Address by REV. TRUMAN J. MENADUE

Grand Chaplain

100TH ANNIVERSARY

PENTUCKET CHAPTER, R.A.M.

Friday, December 7, 1956

Opening of Pentucket Chapter 6:00 P.M.

Business Meeting

INTERMISSION

6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Reception of Grand Lodge Officers — 8:00 P.M.

Royal Arch Degree
Exemplified by Grand Lodge Team

Presentations by
Merrimack Lodge, F. & A.M.
Saggahew Lodge, A.F. & A.M.
Haverhill Council
Haverhill Commandery No. 14, K.T.
Past High Priests, Pentucket Chapter

Remarks by Grand Lodge Officers

Close Chapter

COLLATION

GRAND BALL AND DINNER

STATE ARMORY, HAVERHILL, MASS.

December 8, 1956

Invocation — Rev. Frederic A. Parker, Chaplain, Pentucket Chapter

Dinner — 6:30 P.M.

Dinner Music

Greetings from Excellent Myron O. Wood, High Priest, Pentucket Chapter

Musical Selection — Mrs. Ruby Slaven

Introduction of Guests

Musical Selection — Mrs. Ruby Slaven

Presentations by
Merrimack Lodge, F. & A.M.
Saggahew Lodge, A.F. & A.M.
Haverhill Council
Haverhill Commandery No. 14, K.T.
Past High Priests, Pentucket Chapter

Musical Selection — Mrs. Ruby Slaven

Historical Highlights of Pentucket Chapter

Musical Selection — Mrs. Ruby Slaven

Remarks by
Most Excellent Henry F. Smith
Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter of Massachusetts

Dancing

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The first meeting of Royal Arch Masons in Haverhill, to form a new Chapter, was held at the counting-room of M. D. George & Bros., corner of Merrimack and Fleet Streets, probably in December 1856, but no record is known to have been preserved of this meeting.

A petition for a Chapter was sent to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and signed by the following:

George W. George
George T. Lancaster
Calvin How
Rowland H. Macy (founded Macy's of N.Y.)
Hazen Morse
Rufus T. Slocomb
George W. Campbell
James B. Chandler
Francis J. Stevens
Alfred G. Taggert

This petition was honored by the Grand Chapter and a dispensation issued by the Grand High Priest on December 3, 1856.

Thus Pentucket Chapter was born with Excellent George W. George as High Priest, Excellent George T. Lancaster as King, and Excellent Calvin How as Scribe.

The first recorded meeting of Pentucket Chapter, U.D., was held on January 6, 1857, at the counting room of Woodman & Lancaster, No. 1 Franklin Block, Merrimack Street. The purpose of this meeting was to complete the organization of the Chapter and to appoint a committee to draft By-Laws. It was voted to hold the stated meetings "on the Friday on or preceding the full moon of each month."

The first ritual performed by Pentucket Chapter was on February 6, 1857 when Ambrose L. Kimball, James E. Gale, and E. F. Cushman were advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason.

The minutes of a meeting on March 27, 1857 include "Bro. John Anderson being reported as having gone to sea, voted to let his petition for the Degrees stand upon the records, and take no further action upon it until his return." As no mention is made of his return, it is supposed he never came back, and his petition is still "standing upon the records."

On April 10, 1857, Merrimack Lodge invited Pentucket Chapter to unite with them in dedicating Masonic Hall on Fleet Street. As no further mention is made of this matter in Chapter records, it is not known whether the Chapter took any part in dedicating the hall or not.

On December 3, 1857, the Chapter was opened at 2 P.M. and Companion Stephen Lovell, as a committee from the Grand High Priest, appeared and proceeded to examine the work. All four degrees were exemplified, evidently to the satisfaction of the Grand High Priest's representative as the charter was granted by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts on December 8, 1857.

On January 15, 1858, a delegation from the Grand Chapter, including Companions Stephen Lovell and Wyzeman Marshall, arrived to constitute Pentucket Chapter. After this ceremony a large number of brethren and their families were admitted to witness the installation of officers.

The financial crash of 1857 had a tendency to decrease the business of the Chapter. Before recovering from this depression the four years of the Rebellion were upon us. In 1861, owing to the excitement of war, the marshalling of armies, the removal of several of our members to other states, and the general depression of all kinds of business, very little was done in the Chapter. Twelve meetings were called, but the Chapter was opened only twice during the year, owing to the lack of a quorum.

During 1861 and 1862 the affairs of the Chapter were in a very discouraging condition. A debt had been incurred which was increasing. Several of the older members had left town, and the young men were leaving for the army.

In 1863 new life was evidently instilled into the Chapter. The meetings were well attended and applications were being received. This seemed to be the turning point for the membership mushroomed from 30 or 40 members and the debt of four or five hundred dollars diminished until a balance was had in the treasury.

The first meeting of this Chapter in the present Masonic Temple was held on February 12, 1875 and was the second Masonic meeting to be held in the buildiing. The first being Haverhill Commandery, K.T., February 9.

The conception of the great "Masonic Fair" of Haverhill during 1880 originated in Pentucket Chapter, when on November 3, 1879 it was "voted that a committee of three be appointed to bring the matter before the other Masonic bodies and confer with like committees from each, should they see fit to appoint them."

This "Masonic Fair" was held under the auspices of all the Masonic Bodies in the city and was a great success, socially and financially.

In December 1906, Pentucket Chapter celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in a fitting manner. The Grand High Priest and other officers from the Grand Chapter were present at a special convocation. A public installation of the officers of Pentucket Chapter by the Grand High Priest highlighted the evening.

The meetings from September 1915 through June 1916 were held in Elk's Hall due to extensive renovations in the Temple. Upon completion of this work, the building was rededicated with Pentucket Chapter participating in the exercises.

During World War I, Chapter activities were slowed very little. Applications continued to be received and the meetings were well attended. On Oct. 5, 1917, it was voted to remit the dues of members in the armed forces. Eleven such members had dues remitted while another three that were eligible had life-membership.

At the close of this great war, Pentucket Chapter hit an all time high. In 1920, 75 candidates were exalted and it was not uncommon to have over 250 members present at a meeting.

This prosperity was enjoyed for some time and the membership grew to over 600.

As the depression began to evidence itself, Pentucket Chapter, too, felt the hunger pangs. Applications dropped sharply and in 1933, not one was received. Demits from membership and remitted dues were not just common, they were prevalent. During this period the High Priest was authorized goodly sums of money for "charitable purposes." The membership dropped steadily until it was only about 400 strong. To counteract this membership problem, in 1933 it was voted to reduce the initiation fee. By the next year the number of applications began to increase.

Pentucket Chapter was just about back on an even keel again, when the second great war of the century was upon us. As before, many of our members were dispersed over the face of the earth in the armed forces. On March 6, 1942, it was voted to excuse members in the armed forces from paying dues for the duration of the war.

The war had little effect on the Chapter itself as applications were received and degrees conferred quite frequently. The attendance fell off drastically but the Chapter continued to function effectively.

Thus Pentucket Chapter has survived periods of inactivity and prosperity. The spirit fostered by this Chapter is indeed a shining example of "Masonry." The exertions of the capable men who have held the helm of Pentucket Chapter have made deep and lasting impressions on all those admitted among us.

Pentucket Chapter is known far and wide for its competence in dispensing Capitular Masonry and for its friendliness and sociability. May the next 100 years see Pentucket Chapter still setting the pace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On behalf of Pentucket Chapter, R.A.M. we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one who has given of his time and talent to make this observance possible. To each Companion who gave so generously to the 100th Anniversary Fund, Pentucket Chapter is most grateful. Without your support this celebration would not have been possible. To the chairmen and members of each and every committee, we owe the thanks for making this anniversary the great success that it has been.

Raymond H. Tefft
Ex. Myron O. Wood
Ex. Robert D. Forsyth, Jr.